



# Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission

200 Piedmont Avenue SE | Suite 1402, West Tower | Atlanta, Georgia 30334

404-463-1980 | [www.ethics.georgia.gov](http://www.ethics.georgia.gov)

**Regular Meeting | Thursday March 24, 2016 | 10:00 AM**

## Summary of Commission Meeting

Location: Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
Room 606, 18 Capitol Square, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30334

### **PRESENT:**

#### Commission Members:

Hillary Stringfellow, Chair  
R. Lawton Jordan III, Vice Chair  
Dennis Cathey, Commission Member  
Mary Paige Adams, Commission Member

#### Commission Members via Phone:

Heath Garrett, Commission Member

#### Commission Staff:

Stefan Ritter, Executive Secretary  
Robert Lane, Attorney  
Bethany Whetzel, Attorney  
Nancy Sandberg, Legal Administrative Assistant  
DeAngelo Hall, Videographer  
Maria Bazile, IT

#### Office of the Attorney General:

Christian Fuller, Attorney General's Office

### **SUMMARY OF SUBJECTS ACTED UPON:**

Subject	Summary
Meeting Called to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM</li></ul>
Opening Comments of the Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chair Stringfellow welcomed the public and identified all board members present as Vice Chair Jordan, Commissioner Cathey. Commissioner Adams was on her way, and that Commissioner Garrett would be available via telephone between 10:30 and 10:45 am.</li><li>Chair Stringfellow stated the following revisions to the Agenda:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Item no. 8: Advisory Opinion 2015-03 will be deferred until next meeting.</li><li>Item no. 9: Rule 189-3.-01 Campaign Contribution Disclosure Reports will be deferred until next meeting</li></ul></li></ul>
Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Motioned and approved to adopt the Commission Meeting minutes of December 15 &amp; 16, 2015 as prepared with no corrections or revisions.</li></ul>
Arrival of Commissioner Adams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Commissioner Adams arrived at 10:24 am.</li></ul>

# Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission

200 Piedmont Avenue SE | Suite 1402, West Tower | Atlanta, Georgia 30334

404-463-1980 | [www.ethics.georgia.gov](http://www.ethics.georgia.gov)



Subject	Summary
Late Fee Hardship Waiver Appeals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attorney Bethany Whetzel gave a review on the Criteria for Late Fee Hardship Waivers.</li><li>• The following Late Fee Hardship Waiver Appeals were heard:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ John Keys: Motioned and approved to waive the late fees and refund in total the reduced \$275 late fee fine that had been previously paid.</li><li>○ Eric John: Motioned and approved to assess a \$25 nominal late fee fine.</li><li>○ James Touchton: Motioned and approved to reduce late fee fine in half to \$400.</li><li>○ Johnny Crist: Motioned and approved to reduce late fee fine to \$175.</li><li>○ Joe Cook: Motioned and approved to reduce late fee fine to \$200.</li></ul></li></ul>
Consent Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chair Stringfellow stated that they were moving out of order of the Agenda to hear the following Consent Order since Commissioner Garrett would be available via telephone during this time. Commissioners Cathey and Adams have recused themselves from this case.</li><li>• Commissioner Garrett entered the meeting via telephone at 10:39 am.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 2015-0040: Robert James (BW) Motioned and approved the Consent Order as presented.</li></ul></li><li>• Commissioner Garrett exited the meeting at 10:45 am.</li></ul>
Probable Cause Hearings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Probable Cause:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 2012-0010PC: Irby Allen Meadors (BW). Motioned and approved to find reasonable grounds to believe (probable cause) that violations have occurred. Also noted that he has the opportunity to enter into a Consent Order.</li><li>○ 2013-0049: Daniel Scott Chastain (BW). Motioned and approved to find reasonable grounds to believe (probable cause) that violations have occurred.</li><li>○ 2015-0056PC: James Marcus “Mark” Cantrell (RL). Motioned and approved to find reasonable ground to believe (probable cause) that violations have occurred.</li></ul></li></ul>

# Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission

200 Piedmont Avenue SE | Suite 1402, West Tower | Atlanta, Georgia 30334

404-463-1980 | [www.ethics.georgia.gov](http://www.ethics.georgia.gov)



Subject	Summary
Consent Orders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following Consent Orders were motioned and accepted as presented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2015-0029: Jeffrey Brown (BW)</li> <li>2015-0053PC: Nicholas D. Chester (RL)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Comments by the Executive Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Secretary, Stefan Ritter gave the following presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Dismissal summary for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2014-0061(b): Scott Stambaugh (RL)</li> <li>2014-0061(c): Stambaugh Aviation (RL)</li> <li>2014-0061(d): Aviation &amp; Sales Maintenance, Inc. (RL)</li> <li>2014-0061(e): EJC Investments LLC (RL)</li> <li>2014-0061(f): Mary C. Hunt (RL)</li> <li>2014-0066: Lorenzo McCall (BW)</li> <li>2014-0061: Micah Gravley (BW)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Current Case Count and Backlog: <p>Case count was reduced by 20 case, but 18 new cases have come in; some of the collection cases at the Attorney General's Financial office are moving;</p> </li> <li>Development of Policies: <p>Policies have been put in place for confidentiality and procedures of dealing with the media and press.</p> </li> <li>Legislative Update: <p>Amnesty bill HR370 which gives local fliers until the end of 2016 to catch up with filings – a new CCDR is being drafted for consolidated filing to catch up.</p> </li> <li>Office Space Update: <p>Phase one of the renovations is complete.</p> </li> <li>Employee Update: <p>Auditor Natalie Harper accepted a job with Norfolk Southern; one new auditor has been hired. Positions to still be hired for are a paralegal, 2 data entry, and additional audit staff.</p> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Attorney General's Office Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christian Fuller of the Attorney General's Office stated that the Advisory Opinion is still in the process of being drafted and gave an update on collection cases.</li> </ul>
Comments from the Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Stringfellow notified the Commission that this will be her last commission meeting and that her resignation will be effective upon the appointment of her successor.</li> <li>It was then motioned and approved that the new Chair will be R. Lawton Jordon III and Vice-Chair will be Mary Paige Adams.</li> </ul>
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
Meeting Adjourned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motioned and approved to adjourn the meeting at 11:49 AM.</li> </ul>